

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 2-3 and 5-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103. These rejections are respectfully traversed. By the foregoing, claim 9 is amended and new claim 12 is presented for consideration. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, 2, 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bobrowicz U.S. Patent No. 6 102 428. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bobrowicz '428 discloses an assembly for gliding on snow, comprising a snow board and a binding system for the boots of the user. According to Figure 21 of Bobrowicz '428, cited in the Office Action, an interface element 201 for arranging bindings on the upper side of the sliding board is provided. A metal insert 230 is embedded within the foam core 240 of the sliding board, and is adapted to receive screws 233. The base plate 201 of the snow board binding is mounted onto the snow board by using the screws 233. The snow board is finished when the snow board binding is attached by the screws 233. Bobrowicz '428 does not disclose the guide element having connecting extensions connected with or inserted into the cradle or cassette such that the cradle or cassette and the connecting extensions are fixedly joined together by embedding within the foamed core, as required by amended claim 9. Instead, Bobrowicz '428 discloses that the shoe binding is merely attached to the metal insert by a screw threaded into the metal insert. The screw does not constitute a connecting extension that is connected with a cradle or cassette so as to be fixedly joined together by embedding within the foamed core. Therefore, Bobrowicz '428 does not disclose each and every element of independent claim 9. Claims 10, 2, 3 and 5 depend from claim 9 and should be considered patentable therewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9, 2 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Koike U.S. Patent No. 3 722 901. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Koike '901 discloses a ski having a hard type foamed resin core including a screw-holding frame work embedded therein and having longitudinally extending portions for holding screws for attachment of articles to the ski. Koike '901 discloses that the screw-holding frame work is constructed for holding screws which are employed for attaching a shoe clamping device on the upper surface of the approximately central portion of the ski (see column 2, lines 38-51). Further, Koike '901 discloses that an important objective was to provide a ski having a core structure for holding screws used to attach a shoe clamping device (see column 1, lines 59-64). The framework is embedded within the core body, and a hard foamed resin is injected around the frame work to form an integral core structure (see column 3, lines 37-46). As shown in Figure 3, the core structure of the ski is shown in completed form, ready for attachment of the outer surfaces of the ski. In order to mount the shoe clamping device, it is necessary to drive screws through the outer surface of the completed ski and into the screw-holding framework after formation of the ski core (see column 3, lines 23-36). Koike '901 does not disclose a method for the manufacture of a sliding board, wherein during the assembly of the sliding-board upper and lower parts at least one interface element for arranging and guiding of a binding part is anchored on a cradle or cassette fully encased within a cavity formed by said sliding-board upper and lower parts, wherein foam is subsequently introduced so that the interface element and the cradle or cassette are connected with one another and the cradle or cassette is completely embedded in said foam within said cavity, as required by claim 6. Therefore, Koike '901 does not disclose each and every element of the claim. Claims 7-8 depend from claim 6 and should be considered patentable therewith. Further, Koike '901 does not disclose

connecting extensions of the guide element being connected with the cradle or cassette such that the cradle or cassette and the connecting extensions are fixedly joined together by embedding within the foamed core, as required by amended claim 9. Therefore, Koike '901 does not disclose every element of claim 9, which should be considered patentable thereover. Claims 2 and 11 depend from claim 9 and should be considered patentable therewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6-9, 2 and 11 and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobrowicz '428 in view of Allmann et al. U.S. Patent No. 6 641 162. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 3, from which claim 4 depends, Bobrowicz '428 does not disclose each and every element of independent claim 9, from which claims 3 and 4 depend. Allmann et al. '162 does not introduce any of the elements that are lacking in Bobrowicz '428. Therefore, neither Bobrowicz '428 nor Allmann et al. '162, nor the combination thereof, discloses each and every element of claim 9, or claim 4 which depends therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

New claim 12 is presented for consideration. Neither Bobrowicz '428 nor Koike '901, nor other references cited, disclose a sliding board wherein the foamed core occupies the connecting extension to prevent removal of the connecting extension from the cradle or cassette, as required by claim 12. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims remaining in the application are considered to be in condition for allowance and early notice of allowability are

courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

 43977
for David G. Boutell

DGB/DJW/jas

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL
& TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631
Phone: (269) 381-1156
Fax: (269) 381-5465

David G. Boutell
Terryence F. Chapman
Mark L. Maki
Liane L. Churney
John A. Waters
Brian R. Tumm
Donald J. Wallace
Stephen C. Holwerda
Dale H. Thiel
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.
Heon Jekal
*limited recognition number

Reg. No. 25 072
Reg. No. 32 549
Reg. No. 36 589
Reg. No. 40 694
Reg. No. 24 802
Reg. No. 36 328
Reg. No. 43 977
Reg. No. 57 391
Reg. No. 24 323
Reg. No. 24 949
Reg. No. L0379*

Encl: Postal Card

136.07/05